
Transportation and Communications Committee
November 3, 2005

Action Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Transportation and Communications Committee held its meeting at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Harry Baldwin, Chair, City of San Gabriel. There was a quorum.

Members Present

Baldwin, Harry	City of San Gabriel
Beauman, John	City of Brea
Becerra, Glen	City of Simi Valley
Bone, Lou	City of Tustin
Buckley, Tom	City of Lake Elsinore
Burke, Yvonne	City of Los Angeles
Dale, Lawrence	City of Barstow
Daniels, Gene	City of Paramount
DeLara, Juan	City of Coachella
Dixon, Richard	City of Lake Forrest
Flickinger, Bonnie	City of Moreno Valley
Gabelich, Rae	City of Long Beach
Gurule, Frank	City of Cudahy
Hernandez, Robert	City of Anaheim
Herrera, Carol	SGVCOG
Lowe, Robin	City of Hemet/RCTC
Mikels, Judy	Ventura County
Millhouse, Keith	City of Moorpark
Moqet, Shenna	WRCOG
Ovitt, Gary	San Bernardino County
Pettis, Greg	Cathedral City
Ridgeway, Tod	City of Newport Beach
Spence, David	Arroyo Verdugo COG
Stone, Jeff	Riverside County
Sykes, Tom	City of Walnut
Szerlip, Don	South Bay Cities COG
Talbot, Paul	City of Alhambra
Tyler, Sidney	City of Pasadena
Uranga, Tonia Reyes	City of Long Beach
Wapner, Alan	City of Ontario

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Members Not Present

Adams, Steve
Aldinger, Jim
Brown, Art
Correa, Lou
De Young, Cathryn
Dunlap, Judy
Fasana, John
Garcia, Lee Ann
George, Gary
Herzog, Peter
Joffe, Enid
Lowenthal, Bonnie
O'Connor, Pam
Marshall, Patsy
Miller, Paul
Ramirez, Rick
Roberts, Ron
Rutherford, Mark
Smith, Greg
Smyth, Cameron

Riverside, WRCOG
City of Manhattan Beach
City of Buena Park
City of Orange County
City of Laguna Niguel
City of Inglewood
City of Duarte
City of Grand Terrace
City of Redlands
OCOG
San Gabriel Valley COG
City of Long Beach
City of Santa Monica
City of Buena Park
City of Simi Valley
City of Norwalk
City of Temecula
City of Westlake Village
City of Los Angeles
City of Santa Clarita

New Members

Voting Members, Not Elected Official

Casey, Rose

Caltrans

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE

The Honorable Harry Baldwin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Patrician Price representing South Coast Air Quality Management District, announced that the AQMD will hold its regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting as well as a special public meeting to better understand, reach consensus and formulate solutions in regard to air pollution from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

In addition, AQMD Chairman William Burke is expected to announce several new initiatives aimed at reducing emissions at the ports. We encourage you to attend and voice your concerns. If you cannot attend, the meeting will be web cast. To view, go to AQMD's website at www.aqmd.gov.

The meeting will be held on Friday, November 4th with regular agenda starting at 9 a.m. The Chairman's remarks and special public comment period will begin about 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Long Beach City Council Chambers, 333 W. Ocean Blvd in Long Beach.

Also, the AQMD recently entered into an agreement with BP/ARCO with regard to violations of air quality rules and regulations. The AQMD Governing Board has allocated \$6 million of the settlement monies to fund projects and/or programs related to air pollution mitigation, research, public outreach and education, health treatment centers or other projects to help improve air quality and our residents' quality of life.

We want your input on how those funds should be spent. The AQMD will be holding its next meeting on this on Wednesday, November 30th, 6:30 p.m. at the Carson Community Center, 801 E. Carson Street, in Carson.

3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Approval Item

4.1.1 Approve Minutes of October 10, 2005

4.2 Receive and File

4.2.1 State and Federal Legislative Matrix

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4.2.2 SCAG Future Events Calendar

MOTION was made to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Draft 2006 State and Federal Legislative Program

Don Rhodes, SCAG Staff, stated that each year SCAG puts together a legislative program which we take fourth to the state and federal legislature. This year's program is a continuation of the 2005 adopted program, which was drafted with the input of SCAG'S regional, state and national planning partners and the policy committees. SCAG's federal legislative priority in 2006 is the technical amendment and fair implementation of SAFETEA-LU, the Federal Surface Transportation Program. SCAG's state priorities focus on housing, CEQA reform, and protecting Proposition 42 revenues.

At the federal level there is currently concern on how to capture between 50-200 billion dollars as a result of hurricane Katrina, other natural disasters, and in preparation for bird flu vaccinations, etc. The federal legislature is trying to figure out how to make up for the money needed for this expense. They are looking at what they might do with the existing budget but more importantly, what they might do with the appropriations that will be coming on-line. There is discussion of taking out certain earmarks or doing several other things.

Another issue is the Highway Trust Fund. This fund is what pays for a lot of areas in transportation. When the feds did a reauthorization this time, they planned it out so they basically ran out of money in around 2009. In the past, there was money left over in that trust fund. Because of conservation and other issues, the Highway Trust Fund may run out a bit sooner, 2008 or 2007. As a result of this there are commissions that have been formed that are looking at both infrastructure and finance for transportation.

Transportation Financing, a good part of the last RTP talked about using private sector funds through revenue streams with tax incentives. It appears that based on where the public financing is going to go, that is going to be another issue as we move forward with our new RTP. In addition, Goods Movement has become a larger portion of our focus. We need to be a player to figure out how to move the goods from our ports to the inland through rail, truck and other means. Involved in this are two issues, mitigation and financing.

In the area of housing and land use, SCAG will continue its collaboration with the legislature, the Governor, and housing stakeholders to develop and support

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initiatives that permit local government and regions to plan for the provision of a twenty-year site inventory and allow neighboring jurisdictions to share responsibilities for increasing the housing supply. California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA, reform will also remain a related priority.

Councilmember Lowe, City of Hemet/RCTC, stated that she had a question regarding the ports. As she understood, the Southwest Compact was looking for a port in Mexico that would help relive some of the congestion in our two ports. Mr. Rhodes responded that that was correct, south of Ensenada and it's in the preliminary stages. They are trying to figure out where the ground transportation by rail would intersect.

Councilmember Tyler, City of Pasadena, inquired as to what SCAG was putting on the table in regards to Environmental Streamlining as it related to CEQA? Mr. Rhodes responded that generally staff was not trying to lessen the review environmentally of projects, but provide that the review occurs quicker and then does not require a second or third review to do the same thing. Staff gets the projects done carefully, well, but not with a lot of redundancy at both the federal and state level. Councilmember Tyler, then stated that Mr. Rhodes had mentioned federal and state but did not mention local government to the extent that what is being proposed weakens the ability of municipalities to control their own destinies through CEQA.

Rich Macias, SCAG staff, then intercepted by stating that conceptually it is not about wreaking local control but rather it is about enabling, empowering, locals to have much more fluid and less cumbersome CEQA review for projects that fall within the containment of those areas that choose to participate in the 2% Strategy. Where you have previously approved general plans, specific plans, redevelopment plans and you have a new project that comes in, what it wants to do is strengthen the ability of those previous CEQA documents to cover any new projects that come in so that you don't have to spend your resources or require a developer to spend additional resources on additional environmental documentation. It is not looking to weaken CEQA, but rather to allow you to depend on previous documentation and then supplement those previous documents where you decide it is necessary to supplement them.

Councilmember Gabelich, City of Long Beach, inquired as to whom supports the blanket EIR's? Her concern was, as an example, the Long Beach Airport. If there was a blanket EIR and the EIR said it's good for the Region, and then the homes that were immediately impacted by that would be considered statistically insignificant. Her concern with this is that it would be something that would have a serious impact on not just the tax base of our city, but thousands of families. Mr. Macias responded that, to that end, the CEQA streamlining processing relates to the 2% Strategy for

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infill development. If there is an adjacent airport, that wouldn't be able to qualify because it would exceed the thresholds that were previously established. Mr. Macias stated that a report clarifying this would be brought back to the committee at the next meeting.

MOTION was made to move the item with the request that the CEQA portion be brought back to the committee next month. MOTION was then SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED with three OPPOSITIONS.

OPPOSING the MOTION was Councilmember Robin Lowe, City of Hemet/RCTC, Councilmember Shenna Moquet, WRCOG, and Councilmember David Spence, City of Arroyo Verdugo.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 A Report from the Reservation Transportation Authority

Joe Loya, Tribal Resource Manager/Project Coordinator for the Reservation Transportation Authority, gave a report on their recent activities focusing on the Reservation Transportation Authority, challenges Tribes face in the new SAFETEA-LU, and an introduction to Tribal Governance.

The Mission Statement of the RTA is to develop and increase road construction and road maintenance capability for member tribal government through the implementation of a comprehensive business plan, maximize new road construction and maintenance funding, and obtain increased efficiency and fund usage through economies of scale.

The RTA was made out of a 638 contract which is basically a document that is used by tribes to contract from the Bureau of Indian Affairs which presently holds the contract to design and perform new construction for the tribes in California. The RTA put together a contract, introduced this to the individual Tribal Governments, the Tribal Governments that elected to participate on the RTA and adopted a resolution giving the RTA the authorization to receive those funds on behalf of the member tribe. Therefore, the 18 tribes that make the RTA is a consolidation of funding to broaden our opportunities to get more roads maintained and prioritizing new construction for the reservations. There are the other tribes that are not part of the RTA that have elected to leave their money with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and therefore have to again go through the state process of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to identify prioritization.

In relation to SAFETEA-LU, each tribe is required to contract their funds; they are to identify what they want done with that money. It can no longer stay unidentified. More importantly, if tribes don't consolidate the resources then what the individual tribe will have will be very minimal. Federal money means public roads, public does

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not identify reservation, county, or state municipality, it simply says public. Therefore the reason the tribes have come to SCAG, and other transportation planning agencies, is to share what we can leverage to broaden the opportunities because transportation funding is being cut for everyone. SCAG has adopted a Native American Task Force and the tribes do look forward in the future to working with staff to come up with language that will be acceptable to both parties.

6.2 Status of RTP Update

Naresh Amatya, SCAG Staff, reported briefly on a couple of issues related to the RTP update. One of the issues is staff has received a formal request from Orange County, OCTA, to replace the CenterLine project which is a TCM project with a number of other strategies that are equally valid in terms of emission reduction. Staff is going to review the request, analyze the replacement process, and it may even potentially involve amending the RTP in order to make sure that the replacement process is valid and adequate. Staff will bring this back to the committee in December if an amendment of the RTP is involved so we can have the document released for a 30 public review and comment period.

The other issue is the general timeline for the next RTP update. In February of this year, Mr. Amatya stated he came before the committee and discussed a number of issues particularly related to transportation finance that warranted us at that time to look at potentially accelerating the RTP Update schedule. At that time staff and the committee felt that there may have been a need to adopt the plan earlier than required by the previous transportation bill which requires that the plan be updated every three years. The current plan was adopted in April 2004, so the next plan would have been due in April 2007 and conformity lapses on June 16, 2007. The new wrinkle in the process is that there is a new transportation bill in place which actually allows us four years to update the plan.

As a result, the key issue is how we will deal with the potential conformity lapse that could occur if we pursue the four year strategy. Four year, meaning that we would have one additional year to update the RTP. In addition to that there is a host of next requirements that we are going to have to comply with along with the new SAFETEA-LU. Given these factors staff is looking at a number of options and will bring back our recommendation, in December or January, as to how we ought to proceed in order to accommodate the SAFETEA-LU and update the plan in a timely manner.

7.0 MAGLEV TASK FORCE REPORT

Councilmember Robin Lowe, City of Hemet/RCTC, stated that there was no report at this time but that there would be a meeting next month.

8.0 CHAIR REPORT

Councilmember Harry Baldwin, Chair, City of San Gabriel, reported that

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in preparation for the RTP, SCAG will be holding workshops on specific policy issues. These workshops will be announced and take affect after the first quarter of next year. And to clarify in relations to Orange County, the amendments we are talking about are amendments to the prior RTP and has nothing to do with the current one.

9.0 STAFF REPORT

The Sub-regional/Regional Relations Task Force is having a kick-off meeting Thursday, December 1st, immediately following the Regional Council meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sub-Regional Chairs, Executive Directors of Sub-Regions and interested parties are encouraged to attend.

10.0 GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE REPORT

None at this time

11.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time

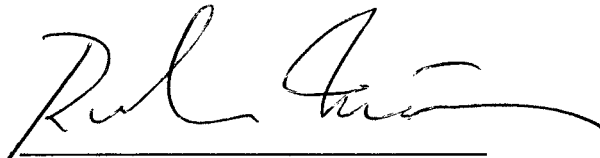
12.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None at this time

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Honorable Harry Baldwin, adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

The next committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 3, 2005, at the SCAG office.**



Rich Macias, Manager
Transportation Planning Division